Statement

Information pertaining to selling and buying of girls for prostitution in 1999 *and* 2000.

State/UT	1999		2000	
	Selling of girls for prostitution	Buying of girls for prostitution	Selling of girls for prostitution	Buying of girls for prostitution
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	3	0
Assam	0	0	1	1
Bihar	0	0	1	0
Gujarat	0	0	0	43
Karnataka	1	0	0	0
Kerala	0	0	0	3
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0
Maharashtra	3	2	5	1
Mizoram	1	0	0	0
West Bengal	7	3	4	5
Delhi	1	0	0	0
India (Total)	13	5	15	53

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, National Crime Records Bureau, Crime in India, 1999 and 2000.

Geneva meeting of developing countries

*380. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 20 developing countries including South Africa and Sri Lanka led by India met at Geneva, and stressed the need for addressing the concerns of developing countries, particularly their agriculture related concerns about protectionist policies and programmes of the developed countries, under the WTO regime;

(b) if so, the response of the countries thereto; and

(c) the prospects of implementation of the Doha declaration?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) As part of the on-going negotiations on World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture India along with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had organised a meeting at Nyon near Geneva on 25 June, 2003 of like-minded developing countries to discuss issues of common interest, namely, the instruments of Special Products (SP Products), and the new Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) proposed for developing countries to enable them to address food security and rural development and/or livelihood concerns. This meeting also considered domestic support modalities for developed countries in order to better address the distortions in world agriculture markets, and sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures being used by some major trading partners to deny market access in products of export interest to developing countries.

In the negotiations, so far, divergence among Members of the WTO on key issues are evident, including on the levels of ambition as regards the further commitments in the three pillars of the negotiations, namely, market access, domestic support and export competition. The Cairns Group (consisting of major agricultural products' exporting developed and developing countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Malaysia and South Africa) and the US favour steep tariff reductions on imports, substantial reduction in domestic support, and elimination of direct export subsidies, the European Communities (EC) and its candidate States, Japan, Switzerland, Norway, and Korea favour moderate tariff reductions based on the Uruguay Round approach, and have linked their flexibility on support and protection in the farm sector with incorporation on non-trade concerns, such as animal welfare, in the negotiations. Countries which have recently acceded to the WTO, such as China, Croatia, Jordan and Oman, favour exemption from further commitments, having already made substantial commitments across all WTO Agreements during their process of accession. Developing countries which are net importers of food attach importance to improved availability of food at affordable prices, and therefore, do not insist upon elimination of export subsidies. Small economies with a heavy reliance on preferential trading arrangements with Members, such as the EC and US, for economic development and growth, support continuation of preferential access to these markets.

Least developed countries have been seeking complete exemption from any further commitments in support or protection of agriculture. While a number of developing countries support flexibility to safeguard food and livelihood security through the application of SP products and SSM instruments, most developed and some developing country Members insist that these instruments should not be used to deny market access.

As may be seen, while there are common interests and concerns between India and some other WTO Members, divergences in positions remain on the level of ambition as well as on key issues in the negotiations.

The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1 January, 2005.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export of the products of DWCRA self-help groups

2698. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any initiative on the part of Government to export products of DWCRA self-help groups with a common brand name with assistance from UNO;

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far;

(c) if not, the steps Government intend to take to make the self-help group movement more sustainable and to supplement efforts of the States like Andhra Pradesh where DWCRA is a success story;

(d) whether there is any proposal to rope in MNCs to market the DWCRA products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken following steps to make the self-help groups more sustainable:—

(i) Encouragement of Women Self Help Group under Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) to play the role of both producers and sellers.